

purchase health insurance. And what flexible spending accounts do is that they allow workers to direct their employers to deduct money from their paychecks to be placed in this flexible spending account, tax-free—tax-free. That is the key. That is the incentive: to pay for health care expenses that they may incur during the course of the year. It is a tax benefit to employees. Workers could save on their taxes for the purchase of health insurance.

It also provides for long-term coverage advantages, because 37 million employees right now in America have access to these accounts, but few of them take advantage of it because there is a use-it-or-lose-it rule. Now, what is the use-it-or-lose-it rule? Well, currently, if you do not use the money by the end of the year that you have put into a flexible savings spending account for health care, then that money is forfeited. It goes away. It goes back to the employer.

This rule is a huge disincentive for participating in a flexible spending account, and it probably drives up health care costs itself because it encourages individuals to spend money on health care at the end of the year that may not necessarily be needed, but you have three weeks left, and you have this money in your account, so you might as well go do that. So it has that adverse incentive for the purchase of appropriate health insurance.

So flexible spending accounts, allowing you to have equal tax protection, tax-free purchase of health insurance or health care, in addition to the pooling that we talked about. Those are the first two. And the final one is medical liability reform. As the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) mentioned, I am a physician, an orthopedic surgeon; spent nearly 20 years in private practice of health care and saw during that period of time an incredible explosion in the cost of liability insurance, for somebody that was never sued, never had a suit. And whether or not you do, the real cost of the current crisis that we have as it relates to medical liability reform is not the cost of the purchase of the insurance for the doctor; that is not the real cost. Those costs are going up, certainly, but that is not the real cost. But those are millions and millions of dollars.

The real cost, the real reason that we need liability reform in the area of health care is because of the practice of defensive medicine. You may have heard about this. What is defensive medicine? Well, when you go to your doctor and you tell your doctor what your symptoms are, what you think is wrong, your doctor, he or she, will run through in their mind or look through their resources to be able to determine what kind of tests or studies ought to be done to make an appropriate diagnosis.

Now, the practice of defensive medicine says to the doctor that we ought to do virtually everything that we can do to make that diagnosis as rapidly

and as accurately as possible, even though those tests may not be absolutely imperative to do to make that diagnosis. The example that I like to use is, if you have back pain and you came into my office, 90 percent of back pain, 90 percent of back pain is what is called functional back pain. It means that you hurt your back, and you strained it, and it will go away, given a little rest and therapy and exercise and sometimes some medication, 90 percent. But I promise you that everybody that comes into the doctor's office with back pain, what do they get? They get an x-ray. Now, they do not get an x-ray because you can diagnose functional back pain on an x-ray; they get an x-ray because if something is not picked up immediately on that x-ray, then they are liable. They are liable to be sued for not picking it up in 1 week when they may have picked it up in 3 weeks if the back pain did not get any better. That is the kind of thing that goes into the practice of defensive medicine. It has to do with blood tests. It has to do with heart tracings. It has to do with extremely expensive tests and studies that we have available to us that are wonderful. They allow us to have the kind of quality health care that we have as a Nation. But what happens is that they drive up the cost of health care to an incredible degree and frankly do not increase the quality of care that is being provided.

How much money is that? The estimates vary because you cannot get a firm figure on that. No doctor orders a test and says, this test is unnecessary. So the cost is likely to be somewhere in the range of \$250 billion to \$500 billion, that is with a B, \$250 billion to \$500 billion in the cost of health care each year in our Nation.

□ 2030

That is why, that is why it is imperative that we have medical liability reform. So the cost of the insurance itself is significant. But that is not the real reason.

Now, there are a number of ways that you can institute appropriate health care reform. I believe that we must give States as much flexibility as possible. I think that there are a number of good solutions on the table. I believe that we have got to adopt one of those solutions that will have true and real and honest effect on the medical liability crisis that we face.

So lots of solutions. Three that I have put out on the table tonight: one is to allow individuals to pool together, to be able to use the power of many people for the purchase of health insurance; second it is imperative to allow individuals to have that equal tax treatment for the purchase of health insurance that the employer has. We need to make it so that all individuals have an incentive to be able to purchase and have health insurance; and then the third issue is the one that I touched on at the end there, that is,

the extreme importance of reforming our crisis in lawsuit abuse. It is imperative that that happen. If we do not do that, we do all of the other things, it is not likely that we will be able to get our handle on the increase of health care costs.

So, finally, what three things drive up the cost of business for any business, be it large or small? There is a common denominator to those things that drive up costs. They are taxation, they are litigation, and they are regulation.

The problem with the area of health care is that all of those costs for the provision of health care for our entire Nation are passed on to somebody else. They are passed on in this instance to the employer, by and large, who provides again the majority of health insurance.

When they are passed on to the employer, what is the employer bound to do? They must pass them on to the employee, to the worker. So the worker is hit twice. It is a double jeopardy as it relates to the ability to obtain health insurance.

So hopefully what we have been able to do tonight is to bring some clarity and some focus to how jobs and how health insurance are related, why it is important to concentrate on the cost drivers for health care, taxation litigation, regulation, and why it is important to provide options and opportunities for both individuals and businesses to purchase health insurance and to provide health insurance for their employees.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had the opportunity to address the House tonight; and once again I want to thank my colleagues, the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) who were so very helpful in bringing clarity to those issues.

And I look forward to garnering the support of my friends on both sides of the aisle, because this is not a Republican issue, it is not a Democrat issue. It is an American issue. It is an issue that is important for all of our constituents across this Nation.

I look forward to working with all Members of this House to solve the challenges that we have.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF J. J. JAKE PICKLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. REICHERT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this subject.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise on the joyous occasion of celebrating the life and the public service of a great Texan and a great American, J.J. Jake Pickle of Austin, Texas. Congressman Pickle led a long life, 91 years. He led a long period of public service in this Congress, some 31 years.

And tonight provides an opportunity to draw attention to that public service and that life and give Members of this House an opportunity to incorporate their remarks into the RECORD in honor of Congressman Pickle's service.

Mr. Speaker, with the announcement just before we began tonight that there would be no votes tomorrow, and with our running now approaching 8:30 here in Washington, a number of Members have asked to have their remarks incorporated into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD already.

I have those of the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) extolling particularly her long service with Congressman Pickle, and his important vote for the 1964 Civil Rights Act, and the statement of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) who, following redistricting, now has a portion of Travis County that he represents for us in Congress.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL), the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE), and I, along with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THOMAS), the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON), were among those who traveled to Austin, Texas, a couple of weeks ago now, for the memorial service at the First United Methodist Church.

And while all of our hearts were heavy with the loss of Congressman Pickle, I cannot say that I have ever been to a happier memorial service. Because, in addition to being a father, a grandfather, a great-grandfather and a public servant, Jake Pickle was quite a story teller and there were plenty of stories told in the course of that beautiful memorial service, which will be made a part of our RECORD, here as a part of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in this tribute.

And there were many stories told outside of that memorial service that added even more to the meaning of friends sharing the tremendous service that Jake Pickle represents.

I am reminded of it, of course, each time that I travel back to my hometown, because when you land at the Austin airport, you land on the Pickle Runway or the Lyndon B. Johnson Runway. And when you travel into the City of Austin, of course you see the University of Texas tower, very closely identified with J.J. Jake Pickle, the research center there at the University of Texas, north of the main campus named for Congressman Pickle, not far from the J.J. Pickle Elementary School, a unique concept of a commu-

nity center and health center and elementary school all in one.

I noted among the tributes to Congressman Pickle, the words of the first principal of that school, Claudia Kramer Santamaria, who said, I was honored to open the J.J. Pickle Elementary School and have Jake celebrate time after time with our school community. He brightened our day with his visits, told unforgettable stories to our students, and gave endless support to our school.

The Pickle School family will continue to cherish and live out his example of genuine kindness and giving never-ending pride to our children. Jake set an example for me, not just the school community. He will remain in our hearts.

And with the new school year coming up, another generation of young students will benefit from his work in public education and the work that goes on in the St. Johns neighborhood in the Pickle Elementary School and the community health center that is located there.

You know, there are these physical monuments, and of course when I travel into my office, along with other Federal officials there in Austin, that is also the J.J. Pickle Federal Office Building. There are those many physical tributes to Congressman Pickle. But I think those tributes that are most meaningful are the ones that are reflected in the stories of his service.

Normally, when someone appears here in the House, they do so without lapel pins or labels. I chose tonight to wear my Jake green pickle button. And there were lots of those that were at the memorial service. There were many of them that were passed out through the years, along with the squeaky green pickle that was Jake's symbol that he would pass along to kind of warm up, establish a tie to someone that he was meeting for the first time.

He continued passing out those pickles even after he announced his retirement in 1994 at a gathering that I was at, as if he had an endless supply of pickles and an endless supply of energy and interest in working with people.

He really did set the standard for public service. Naturally, the Congressman could not have accomplished this without the support of a loving and supportive family. First and foremost his wife throughout this service, Beryl, there was a great photograph of her and Jake boarding a Braniff airplane for Washington, just after he was elected in 1963, coming up, I suppose, to celebrate Christmas here in Washington after he was elected in a special election there.

I knew him first as Peggy's dad, because Peggy Pickle and I were in Austin High School the same year that he was elected to Congress. Peggy gave a wonderful tribute to her father at this memorial service. And of course the even broader tribute that exists from her, in working with Jake and the

many stories that are incorporated in a book that they wrote and presented together called "Jake" in 1997.

Peggy; her husband, Don; Dick McCarroll and his wife, Missy; Graham McCarroll and his wife, Marsha. Jake's brother. There was something I remember going to, I believe it was an 80th birthday party at the University of Texas Alumni Center a decade ago. And there were all of those people in their 80s from the Big Spring and the Roscoe area. There was something good in those big springs in that Howard County area, because many people with long lives, great stories and great service in their own way, and one of those who remains with us, our friend, the brother of Jake Pickle, Joe, his sister Judith Pickle Lancaster, and her husband Jonathan, six grandchildren, including my former neighbor Bergan Casey, four great granddaughters, including her son, Peyton Casey, the McCarrolls, the Caseys, the other expanded family of the Pickle family, sharing a special place in their hearts for all that this man contributed to the public, but for the family man that he was, and recognizing the sacrifices that they made so that he could continue to be in there day in day out working so hard for people throughout central Texas.

He was also blessed with a tremendous staff. I can remember coming here to Washington for the first time as a University of Texas student myself and the warm feeling that one got in going into Jake's office over in the Cannon Building, an office that when he first came to Washington, with Jake Pickle, he served in a more humble way, I believe as a night watchman, probably at hours like this, a job he told me he was never very good at; but he was sure good at what was happening working night and day, first for Congressman Lyndon Johnson, and later in his own right on behalf of the thousands of people across Texas that he represented.

In the Washington office, Molly Kellogg was always there at the front desk greeting people so warmly and giving them that Texas hospitality that we all relished when we came to see Jake in Washington.

In the Austin office, a similar role was played for many years by Dorothy Elliott. Here in the Austin office, Paul Hilgers headed up the team as they passed the torch to me there in Austin. And there are so many others: Sandy Dochen, Joyce Arnold, my long-time friend from the University of Texas, Cliff Drummond, Judge Bill Schroeder and Kay Schroeder from down in Lockhart, Fleetwood Richards, who was at this memorial service who served Jake early in his career in the Congress.

Kathy Morris, Michael Keeling, Minnie Lopez who was there working on behalf of veterans as Jake worked to the last day in 1994 in his office there in Austin.

Missy Mandell, George Phoenix, Reg Todd who served admirably as a district director there in the office, Ateja

Dukes who was there assisting Paul in the office, Joe Grant. So many others that have continued to serve in different ways here in Washington.

People like Janice McCullough and Barbara Pate who served here with Rob Portman on the Ways and Means Committee. One person after another who was inspired by Jake's own level of activity to be active participants in the process, not only working with Jake Pickle, but working after they completed their official tour with Jake Pickle, as indicated by the large number of Pickle staffers, both at this memorial service and at a great celebration of Jake's birthday here about a year ago. Once on this Pickle team, always a part of it.

□ 2045

It really is an humbling experience to try to capture just a little of the essence of this great American because while his focus was on his home folks, the folks of central Texas that he represented, he was also a great American leader. He played a pivotal role in the eighties in what was a very bitter and divisive debate over the future of Social Security. And by making some changes in the Social Security system then, he was able to bring it that additional solvency from which we continue to benefit today.

He was a person who knew a time in America when there was no Social Security system. He recognized how really important it is to provide that basic safety net for all of our seniors. His work for Social Security, for Medicare on the House Committee on Ways and Means, was extremely important to preserving that for another generation of Americans.

There is a great deal for us to learn from the work that he did at that time to try to bring people together to address Social Security problems, but to do it in a constructive way so that Social Security, the same Social Security Franklin Roosevelt signed into law could be there for generations of Americans to come. His work in oversight on the Committee on Ways and Means, investigating organized crime and its involvement with the pension fund, seeking to assure that nonprofits were complying with the law and not abusing the public trust and the public treasury are the kind of things that fill the footnotes but are extremely important to the operation of our government.

As I talk, though, with people on the Committee on Ways and Means, almost all of whom will have remarks to be inserted in the RECORD, they are mainly telling me the stories of Jake Pickle and how he could take a moment of divisiveness, perhaps of acrimony, and turn it around into a moment of humor. That is why a delegation of both Republicans and Democrats join together to bring honor to him at this memorial service and will be joining together as a part of this special order to reflect on their experiences with Jake Pickle.

One of Jake's longtime friends, Eric Stumberg, summarized him as a man with a heart for children and the underdog, a vision for possibilities, a great storyteller, and a wit and simple wisdom to humble the arrogant. And he always left a smile and an ideal to ponder along with that plastic Pickle.

Jake was a man of ideas and he was far ahead of his times. In addition to some of the other areas that he worked in over 20 years ago, he was named the Solar Power Congressman of the Year. He seemed to have energy from many sources, but he recognized the importance to our energy future of alternative energy sources. His attention to the need for research and development was unflinching as he doggedly pursued one funding project after another for the University of Texas.

I think that it is noteworthy that when Jake was elected to Congress, his district stretched from the Johnson ranch out in Blanco County all the way to the Harris County line. He went from the hill country to the Texas Gulf. He went through dozens of small rural Texas communities, farming and ranching communities. And when he left office some 31 years later, he represented basically the City of Austin, Travis County, because it had grown to such a significant town. A city which would soon have, in 1 year, two \$1 billion semi-conductor fabricators going up. And this man's ability to adapt over that period of time to those changing conditions and to be a force for change in helping get the research dollars, the government support, realizing that government certainly has to be restrained at times but that it can be a force for positive good in the lives of communities and in the lives of individuals. He recognized that.

He transformed, played a transforming role in our community in helping Austin become a really world class center for technology. And I think at the same time was able to preserve those values and those relationships which served him well from the first day that he got to Austin, Texas, from out in Big Spring. Indeed, I think everyone who was with us recently at the First Methodist Church there in Austin took note of the fact that Lady Bird Johnson, First Lady of America, and her daughters, Luci and Linda, were there at the service as they have been at every Pickle public event that I believe I have ever been to, as a tribute of the close relationship between the Johnson family and the Pickle family that served them well in politics but also served them well as individuals who respected each other, learned from each other and contributed to make a better central Texas and a better America and I believe a better world.

I am pleased to be joined by one of our colleagues who I see has Jake's book, as we all do, the book that Jake and Peggy put together here a few years ago. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN) served with Jake. He represents the Houston area. And the

gentleman may want to add a few stories. I have not really gotten into the storytelling part. I have just talked about the storyteller himself. I really appreciate the gentleman coming out, as I know the family and staff of the Congressman do, to add words at a time here when we are officially in recess and with so many of our colleagues heading off to the shuttle launching tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague who served many years in the State Senate and in the Supreme Court of Texas and now in Congress.

Since it is replacing Jake Pickle, although nobody can replace Jake Pickle, I served only one term with Jake, but knowing him and when I served in the legislature with him for 20 years in Austin before I was elected to Congress, Jake for my whole career was the definition of Texas gentleman. He loved Texas and loved Austin and the hill country.

I guess my first experience knowing Jake was in 1974. I just completed my first term as a young 25-year-old member of State legislature. And another member that served one term, Larry Bails, Larry decided that Jake might be vulnerable in 1974. So Larry Bails, who had a good one term in the legislature and was the owner at that time of the landmark in Austin, the Schultz Beer Hall, where a lot of legislature folks decided to go after the session, Larry decided to run against Jake and ran a fairly aggressive campaign. But Larry was one of the many who made that wrong decision.

Larry was a good member of the State legislature but decided he would move up too quick. I watched Jake campaign, because we were at the Constitutional Convention during that primary of that year. I was in Austin at that time and still going home on weekends like we do now, and watched that campaign unfold and how Jake literally, he being a long-term member, at that time a little over 10 years, literally took this young fellow apart so to speak.

Jake was such a great person. We have so many good stories. The reason I brought his book over is that, in 1997, Jake gave me this book and wrote an inscription that I was so proud to come from someone of Jake Pickle's stature: To my distinguished colleague GENE GREEN, experienced, effective and trusted, and I know this GENE GREEN was for the people. And having that statement from Jake Pickle was more than anyone could ever expect.

I would just suggest that if someone wants to have some great stories of how government works and how, in our process, if you do not have a sense of humor, you will surely go crazy; Jake did this in his book and I assume it is still in print, the University of Texas print. For my colleagues, I know the Library of Congress has them. My colleagues will love to read it. You will

stay up all night because I did that. When I first got the book, I stayed up and read all the great stories about LBJ when Jake was a staff member for President Johnson.

I served with a lot of great people in my time and great Texans, and Jake was one of them. I compare Jake to Lieutenant Governor Bob Bullock in one way; they both loved Texas and loved the job they did.

I have to admit, Bullock would wake up in the morning and give everybody a good cussing and, thank goodness, forget about it in the afternoon. You did not have to worry about that with Jake Pickle because he was a gentleman. But he also had a sense of humor I do not think any of us can express too much.

In the introduction to his book, I believe his daughter wrote the introduction, and briefly some of Jake's rules are: In a parade, do not get behind the horses but do ride in a convertible with your name on the sides. Always be available to constituents. Do not assume they will not find out about it because they will.

These are some good tests for all elected officials whether you are in Congress or not.

If it does not pass the smell test, do not do it. A politician who expects financial privacy is in the wrong line of work. Do not arrive at events too early because they do not know what to do with you. Listen for the bell.

Those of us in Congress understand that. We have to listen for the bell so we can go vote.

Answer every constituent's letter within 3 days of its receipt. We have that goal in our office still, 3 business days anyway.

If you do not know where the money came from, give it back. Holding a drink gets in the way of shaking hands.

That is a good saying for elected officials also.

In your home district, you cannot say no. Jake understood that.

In a restaurant, face the door so people can see and talk to you. Always carry a pen and paper. Introduce yourself first. At barbecues, which is something we do a lot of in Texas, stand at the head of the food line. Everybody has to pass by and you get to shake their hand. Never take it all for granted.

Those are some of Jake's sayings that I think any elected official can live by. Jake will be missed.

I will close by telling a personal experience. When my daughter went to the University of Texas, she had a project one time, and this was after Jake had left Congress. And she went down to his office, and Jake literally opened up for an hour or more helping her do her project at the University of Texas. Of course, this is a young lady who grew up in politics and was actually born while I was in the legislature.

After she met Jake Pickle, and she did not call me to say she had to go do it; she did call me and say, Dad, I just

met one of the greatest folks I ever talked to. Jake Pickle, Congressman Pickle was so good to talk to me. He was so down to Earth, so easy to understand.

I think that is Jake's legacy. I guess the last thing I would say is his legacy goes on because, at the University of Texas, the J.J. Pickle Fellowship Program supports internships within the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the Federal government. It is fitting that, after passing, J.J. Pickle will be helping the future public servants just like he has helped so many of us in the past.

Jake will be missed. I know his family will miss him, but we will also miss the feeling of his love for Texas, his love for Austin, the communities of central Texas, but also our country.

I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) for allowing for this special order this evening.

Former Congressman J.J. Pickle was a standout in the great tradition of Texas legislators. He was deeply loved and respected throughout Central Texas and the entire state.

My sincere condolences go out to his family and friends throughout Texas and the Nation for their loss of this great man.

From Big Spring, Texas J.J. Pickle went on to win Former President Lyndon Baines Johnson's 10th District Congressional seat and became a senior member of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee.

His accomplishments here were numerous. One example when he chaired the Social Security subcommittee was the bipartisan, consensus changes to save Social Security back in 1983.

I served with him in this House from 1993 to 1995, and he was an inspiration to all of us.

He was a dedicated public servant, whose legacy shows he did what was best for his constituents, not politics. As proof of his dedication to public service, the J.J. Pickle Fellowship program at the University of Texas supports internships within the executive, legislative, or judicial branches of the Federal government.

It is fitting that even after his passing, J.J. Pickle will be helping future public servants, just like he helped so many in the past.

His passing should give us all an opportunity to reflect on his ideals of constituent service and hard, honest work.

Politics sometimes distracts us from why we got into this public service in the first place—which is the honest reward you feel when you help the community.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in deep regret at the passing of a great Texas leader, J.J. Pickle. May God bless him and his family during this difficult time.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for being here and for participating and sharing those thoughts.

Our colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS) already spoke earlier this evening before we formally began this special order, but his remarks, the various written remarks of our colleagues of both parties will be made a part of this RECORD.

We talked about the stories of Jake Pickle and what a storyteller he was. I

liked the one, in the aftermath of his passing away, that came from a local Austinite and admirer of Jake Pickle, John Kelso, in the Austin American Statesman. He said, "Jake Pickle was like your barber. You knew his name, and you knew what he did."

But the story amongst several that John tells that I think really captures the essence of what Jake was all about was, could you pick your representative from Washington out of a line up? Maybe not, but you could not say that about Jake Pickle. You could have had seven Jake Pickle clones in an eight-man line up with Jake Pickle and you could tell which one was Pickle. He would be the one shaking the other seven guys hands and telling funny stories. And there was one after another out of the Pickle barrel that he would tell around here and to our colleagues.

□ 2100

He also could be very eloquent in discussing the needs of the people of central Texas and of our country. During one very lengthy debate here in 1983 here over Social Security, he pointed to Daniel Webster's quotation at the Speaker's podium and read the words: "Let us go forth to build up and protect our national resources that we too in our time may do something worthy to be remembered."

Certainly, from his first major vote on the Civil Rights Act to his hard-fought preservation of Social Security, there is no doubt among those who know of his deeds, his constituents, his colleagues and friends, that his contribution will be remembered long after in the very words that Webster spoke.

I believe that of all the votes that Jake cast here and the speeches he gave at this very spot that the one that he talked about the most, that was the most significant, was among his first votes on the 1964 Civil Rights Act. That vote took place in the aftermath of the assassination of President Kennedy at a time of great strife in our country over civil rights and our future. It was a critical vote to the rebirth of our country and to trying to cope with some of the wrongs, many wrongs of the past.

Congressman Pickle, representing a southern State, was a new Member, faced a difficult decision, and he describes that at some length in the book that we have referred to and will incorporate portions of as a part of this RECORD. But I have heard him personally tell, as so many have here, about casting that vote and about calling the White House to talk to the President, it being so late, and then getting the opportunity to hear from the President of how very proud he was of the fact that Congressman Pickle cast one of the only votes from the southern States in support of this very critical piece of legislation.

From there he went on to add a road here, a project there, assist a constituent with a veterans health care

problem here, and someone who had a Social Security problem there. For each of those people that he assisted directly, and for those that he encouraged by the example of public service that he provided, his hard work, his integrity, his commitment, his gentle nature, I think he will long be remembered in our community.

I was just noting another of the comments that I saw in the aftermath of his passing away where one of our neighbors there in central Texas, who identified herself as a Republican, Marcia Manor, said, "When I would take my mom to vote, she always said, 'I only care about voting for Jake.' She would of course vote for some other candidates, but Jake Pickle was the important vote. And when I asked her why, she said, 'Because he always kisses me when he sees me.'" Well, Jake kissed and hugged a lot of folks across central Texas because he had that genuine warmth, that genuine Texas hospitality for which our community is known.

I think that it was that individual touch and contact with people more than the detail of a piece of legislation that had the most meaning to people in our community. We will, through this Special Order, have an opportunity to add more extended remarks honoring Jake. I have been contacted by a number of our colleagues who will, over the course of the next several days, want to add their remarks to the RECORD and make it a part of the history of this body, reflecting on 31 years of faithful service here in this House.

I would just say that, Jake, I feel we owe you a tremendous debt in setting such a high standard for what it really means to be a public servant; for someone who worked the hardest for those who had the least; for someone whose sense of duty kept him and his loyal staff working long hours; and for making it all look so very easy. Thank you for reminding us how much one person can accomplish; what a difference one person can make in his or her community, world, country, State; and reminding us how much one person can accomplish when you devote your life to the service of others.

Texas and a grateful Nation salute you and say, "J.J. Jake Pickle, a job well done for America."

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, on June 18, this nation lost a true patriot when James Jarrell "Jake" Pickle passed away. Congressman Jake Pickle was truly dedicated to his country, the state of Texas he loved so much, and to the constituents he served so dutifully. In 1942, young Jake Pickle began his public service by enlisting in the U.S. Navy and serving as a gunnery officer in World War II. After surviving three torpedo attacks he returned to Texas and with some fellow veterans established radio station KVET in Austin, Texas. As a protégé of President Johnson, he came to the U.S. House of Representatives in the early 1960s looking to make a difference. He got his chance almost immediately.

Bucking the trend of the times, and breaking with many from the Southern delegation, Con-

gressman Pickle voted for the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and continued to remain a staunch advocate for civil rights and protections for minorities. He always said that this vote was the proudest moment of his career. In the early 1980s, as chairman of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security, he worked to protect and strengthen Social Security from financial ruin. Recognizing the need to maintain America's technological edge and always mindful of the need to increase job opportunities for his constituents, he helped bring high-tech industries to Austin and worked to make the University of Texas, my alma mater and his, a cutting edge research institution.

As I have traveled throughout my newly reconfigured district, I have heard numerous stories about Jake and the plastic pickles he used to hand out on the campaign trail. He loved the people of Texas, and was happiest when he was sitting at a local diner telling stories and listening to his constituents. I was very honored to represent my colleagues as part of the official Congressional delegation that was sent to Congressman Pickle's funeral. It is my hope that as the Representative for some of the communities Congressman Pickle proudly represented for 31 years I can continue advocating for the issues he cared for the most, and represent the people of the 15th Congressional District with the same honor, grace and dedication. I extend my sincere sympathy to Congressman Pickle's wife Beryl, his children, grandchildren, family and friends on their loss, but know that his memory will live on in the halls of Congress and in the communities of Texas.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of our former colleague and friend, the late Representative J.J. "Jake" Pickle.

As many of you know, Jake and I served together on the Committee on Ways and Means for eight years. In fact, when I first began to serve on the Committee in 1983, I was assigned to the Subcommittee on Social Security, which he chaired. Jake's hard work and skill helped develop the legislation enacted in 1983 to enhance Social Security. Jake is also well-remembered for his courageous vote in support of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the superior service he provided to his constituents.

I admired Jake's ability and work ethic and appreciated his friendship. I will miss him and extend my deepest condolences to his wife Beryl and the rest of his family.

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today in paying tribute to a truly great former Member of the House, the late Jake Pickle of Austin. Jake served his district and the people of Austin for more than 30 years and was one of the most effective and formidable Representatives this body has ever known.

Jake was my colleague in the House for about half of his tenure. He loved this institution and was one of its leading Members throughout his service. Time and again, Jake convinced a majority of us to support appropriations and programs that benefited the citizens of his district around Austin—and at the same time he managed to convince us that it was somehow good for our districts, too.

Jake had the intellect, personality, and drive to accomplish countless legislative victories for his district and our country. As a senior Democrat on the House Ways and Means Committee, he was instrumental in passing major Social Security reform legislation in 1983. This

legislation helped ensure the viability of this great program for senior citizens for the past two decades.

Jake managed to be both respected and beloved. He will be long remembered not only for his accomplishments but also for his engaging and flamboyant personality. His influence will be felt for generations to come, and he will forever be remembered in Austin as one of the great statesmen of the State of Texas.

May God bless his family, and may he rest in peace.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, many great Americans have served in this House; men and women of conviction who represented their constituents with integrity, energy and devotion to assuring the American dream becomes a reality for all.

Few Members of Congress have served with such unbridled enthusiasm, such untiring good humor and such true pleasure in the task as did my late colleague from Texas, Jake Pickle.

Jake's passing last month at the age of 91 was, in many ways, the end of an era in Texas history. A longtime confidant of President Lyndon Johnson, Jake represented the 10th District of Texas for 31 years. During that long tenure, he set an enviable record for constituent service and responsiveness. No constituent concern or problem was too small for Jake's attention.

Jake loved this House and took seriously his responsibility to uphold the integrity of the institution and the responsibilities of representative government.

Sometimes his enthusiasm was expressed in his tireless work for legislation. At other times, it was expressed in his support for his beloved University of Texas Longhorns. And at other times, it was expressed in a quiet talk with a troubled constituent he encountered on Congress Avenue in downtown Austin.

It is most fitting that Jake's funeral service was conducted in his church that stands in the shadow of the dome of the Texas State Capitol. And it is fitting that he rests now in the Texas State Cemetery with other leaders of the Lone Star State.

It was both a tremendous honor and a great learning experience to have served in this House with Jake Pickle.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join my distinguished colleagues and pay tribute to my good friend, J.J. Pickle. Those of us who have the tremendous honor of serving in this great institution sometimes fail to see the giants that serve among us. Certainly J.J. Pickle was one of those giants.

He was a man who gave his heart, literally, to this country. He poured hours after hours into trying to grapple with the important issues we faced as a Nation, and he did it because he loved this country. He was truly a public servant who cared about the people in the State of Texas, and cared about the people in this great country.

It is rare that we see people in this institution who worked as hard as J.J. Pickle. However, in doing so, he was always able to retain his touch of the common man. As much as he accomplished academically and through the higher ranks of government in this country, he never lost the ability to relate to people on a day-to-day level. To me he will always be Jake, the fellow who would put his arm around

you, smile and joke, and ask how things were going. He was a man who cared about you as an individual and I cared about people.

He loved high-powered debates with intellectuals, but he never put on airs. He was one of only seven southern representatives to vote for the 1964 Civil Rights Act legislation. He believed that his most significant accomplishment as a lawmaker was the 1983 Social Security reform bill, which he helped pass as chairman of the Social Security subcommittee. That legislation eased Social Security's financial problems by raising the age for full benefits from 65 to 67 in the year 2000. He could talk to farmers and mechanics as easily as Presidents such as from his mentor, President Johnson and other leaders. It is no wonder the voters of Central Texas kept Jake in Congress for 31 years. They knew a good man when they saw him. They, and all Americans, have lost someone very special.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to recognize J.J. Pickle, a man whose spirit and involvement has made a lasting mark on Texas and this Nation.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

STEM CELL RESEARCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Miss MCMORRIS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BARTLETT) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Madam Speaker, there have been a number of articles in the recent press relative to stem cell research, with particular reference to embryonic stem cell research. I thought it might be well in starting this little discussion to take a look at what we mean by stem cells.

I have here a chart which shows in very abbreviated form the development of an early embryo. It starts out with the zygote, which is the fertilized egg; and then it skips a couple of stages of development, and it goes through the blastocyst, and then it goes to the gastrula. By the time the embryo gets to the gastrula stage, the cells have already differentiated to the place that we have three different kinds of somatic stem cells. This is the ectoderm, and the mesoderm, and the endoderm, and then those very specialized cells, which in the female will be the germ cells in the ovary, the ova, and in the male will be the millions and millions of sperm that are in the gonads of the male.

If we look back, Madam Speaker, at these stem cells that are present here in the gastrula, where we have these three, as we call germ layers, we see the ectoderm can further differentiate into skin and nervous system and some of the pigment cells in our body; and then the mesoderm, the middle layer, that differentiates into what is most of us by mass and weight, cardiac muscle, our big skeletal muscles, the bone, the smooth muscle, all of our blood, and the blood is an organ, it happens to be a liquid organ that is dispersed through the body; and then the endoderm. This is much more limited in volume and in

variety, but still very important. The pancreatic cells, the thyroid cells, the lining of the gut, the lining of the lung and so forth.

It might be worth just a moment, Madam Speaker, to take a look at our next chart, which kind of puts this in context. We started out with the zygote, which is the fertilized egg here, and we ended up with the inner cell mass with these three germ layers. What we show here are all the stages that were omitted in that first chart. This is one-half, as the little diagram here in the upper left shows, of the reproductive tract of a female. It shows the ovary on one side and the fallopian tube, with the funnel-like opening here called the infundibulum. Then it shows the fallopian tube on down to the uterus itself.

What it shows, Madam Speaker, is that fertilization takes place well up in the fallopian tube, and that begins day one. And then as the egg slowly moves down the tube, it splits first into two cells, then four cells, and then eight cells, and then the larger variety of cells, and finally where you have the inner cell mass and then to the gastrula.

There are two kinds of stem cells, adult stem cells, and those are derivatives of the cells that we showed in the previous chart. For instance, in the humans we have adult stem cells in our bone marrow. These are cells which are differentiated to the point that they will produce a limited variety of cells, but still undifferentiated to an extent because these stem cells in the bone marrow can produce red blood cells and polymorphonuclear leukocytes, part of the white blood cells, and the thrombocytes, those are the cells, the platelets as we call them, that are associated with clotting. And there are a number of adult stem cells similar to that that still retain some of the capability for producing more than just one kind of cell.

We have been working with adult stem cells medically now for more than 3 decades, and there have been a number of medical applications, treatment of humans that have been made with adult stem cells. But just because they are what they are, Madam Speaker, a great number of people believe that there should be more potential from the embryonic stem cells simply because they can produce any and all of the tissues of the body.

Since we have been working with embryonic stem cells for now just a little over 6 years, we have not had the opportunities for medical applications we have had in adult stem cells, but this does not dim the hopes of the scientific community and the medical community that ultimately there may be more and better applications of embryonic stem cells to treatment of diseases than adult stem cells, simply because of what they are, pluripotent cells retaining the ability to produce any and all of the tissues of the body.

It is possible, Madam Speaker, that this characteristic, which makes them

so potentially attractive and exciting, may be uncontrollable. They may be so bent on dividing that we cannot control their division. They may end up producing tumors and cancer-like growths in the organism in which you put them.

But if that can be controlled, the medical community and the researchers associated with it believe there is potential for enormous applications to medicine of embryonic stem cell research. We have now had 58 applications of adult stem cells in helping to treat some of the diseases.

What are the diseases that could be treated with stem cells? Ordinarily, one thinks that the greatest potential for the use of stem cells would result from use in diseases from tissue deficiency rather than diseases that result from some organism, although if there is an infection in the body and a tissue is damaged, there is the hope that it might be replaced with stem cell application. There are a number of diseases that the scientific community and the general public believe might be amenable to treatment with stem cells, particularly embryonic stem cells.

Diabetes is one of those. This is the most costly disease in our country. It costs more to treat the diabetics in our country than any other single disease. I have these come through my office. Particularly heartrending are the little children that come there, 5 and 6 years old some of them, such brittle juvenile diabetics that they have an implanted pump and they have to prick their finger or some part of their body a number of times a day to monitor the glucose level so that just the right amount of insulin can be injected to control this.

This insulin is produced by cells called island of Langerhan cells. Dr. Langerhan was the German scientist that described them. And they look like little eyelets because they are simply distributed through the tissue of the pancreas. The pancreas is a very large gland at the very beginning of the small intestine that secretes all of the different kinds of digestive enzymes so that fats, carbohydrates, and proteins all are digested using the enzymes secreted by the pancreas.

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I have no idea why nature placed the islets of Langerhans in the pancreas. They could be placed anywhere. With these stem cell applications if we could create islet tissue, they could be placed in the person. It could be placed in the groin, under their arm, under the skin, anywhere. It does not have to be in the pancreas. This islet tissue could then make insulin which would cure diabetes. When you give insulin to the diabetic, it delays progression of the disease, but it does not cure it. A person with juvenile diabetes faces the prospect that they probably will have a shortened life, problems with their vision as the vascular bed in the back of the eye breaks down, and they may